

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /071 W
-----311343Z 122723 /53

O R 311259Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4659
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: MAPAM CONVENTION FAVERS RETENTION OF ALIGNMENT WITH
CONDITIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 0391

1. MAPAM'S CONVENTION ENDED LAST NIGHT WITH A QUALIFIED
DECISION TO REMAIN IN THE ALIGNMENT WITH THE LABOR PARTY.
THE ONE DAY MEETING WAS PART TWO OF A CONVENTION THAT
OPENED IN JUNE 1976 AND WHICH HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DECIDE
ON MAPAM'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ALIGNMENT. (76 TEL
AVIV 4057) THE CONVENTION IN ADOPTING ITS MAJORITY RESOLUTION
IMPOSED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS AND INSTRUCTED THE MAPAM CENTRAL
COMMITTEE TO MEET IN MARCH TO DECIDE WHETHER THE LABOR
PARTY AT ITS CONVENTION (BEGINNING FEBRUARY 22) HAD
FULFILLED THEM:

A) THE LABOR PARTY SHOULD STATE ITS READINESS FOR
A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE ON ALL FRONTS, INCLUDING
JUDEA AND SAMARIA.

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B) LABOR SHOULD NOMINATE FOR PRIME MINISTER SOME-
ONE WHO WILL IDENTIFY WITH THIS POSITION AND WOULD
BE EXPECTED TO IMPLEMENT IT (READ: NOT DEFENSE
MINISTER PERES).

C) LABOR SHOULD MOVE TOWARD MORE SOCIALISM, A
SOFTER ATTITUDE TOWARDS ISRAEL'S ARAB MINORITY AND
GREATER LABOR-MAPAM COOPERATION.

2. MOST CONVENTION SPEAKERS TOOK NOTE OF LAST WEEK'S RECOMMENDATION BY A LABOR PARTY SUB-COMMITTEE EXPRESSING READINESS TO CEDE TERRITORY ON THE WEST BANK AS PART OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN (TEL AVIV 660). FOR HIS PART, MAPAM LEADER YAACOV HAZAN STRONGLY URGED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE CONVENTION'S MAJORITY RESOLUTION WITH ITS CONDITIONS. IN VIEW OF HIS ALMOST EMOTIONAL APPEAL AND THE GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH WHICH THE LABOR PARTY SUB-COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION WAS RECEIVED BY MAPAM'S LEADERSHIP, THE RELATIVELY CLOSE VOTE CAME AS A MILD SURPRISE. THE ACTUAL VOTE WAS 527 FOR THE MAJORITY RESOLUTION AND 313 FOR A MINORITY RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF IMMEDIATE DISBANDMENT OF THE ALIGNMENT.

3. JUST PRIOR TO THE VOTE ONE MAPAM LEADER (HAIM SHUR) TOLD US THAT THE LABOR PARTY'S PROPOSED PLANK WAS THE MOST DOVISH POSITION EVER TAKEN BY LABOR; HE FELT THIS CHANGE WAS DUE TO MAPAM PRESSURE. MOST MAPAMNIKS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN PERSUADED THAT MAINTAINING THE ALIGNMENT WOULD HELP PRIME MINISTER RABIN IN HIS CONTEST WITH PERES AND ALSO WOULD PRESERVE MAPAM INFLUENCE AGAINST A FUTURE LABOR-LIKUD COALITION GOVERNMENT. YET DESPITE HAZAN'S (AND OTHERS) EXHORTATION, THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES, MAINLY AMONG THE YOUNGER ELEMENT, VOTED FOR THE MINORITY RESOLUTION.

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4. COMMENT: MAPAM'S CONTINUED AMBIVALENCE REFLECTS THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ITS IDEOLOGICAL PURITY AND THE DICTATES OF PRACTICAL POLITICS. THE YOUNGER ELEMENTS DOUBT THAT THE LABOR PARTY WILL ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF ITS SUB-COMMITTEE, WHEREAS MAPAM'S LEADERSHIP CONGRATULATES ITSELF OVER ITS APPARENT SUCCESS IN SOFTENING LABOR'S POSITION OVER WEST BANK RETROCESSION. MAPAM'S FINAL POSITION AS REGARDS ITS TIES WITH LABOR WILL THUS BECOME CLEAR ONLY AFTER THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION AND THAT PARTY'S CHOICE OF A PRIME MINISTER CANDIDATE.
DUNNIGAN

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Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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